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A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 1.

BOSTON, MASS., MAR. 15, 1898.

NO. 9.

A FEW HENS IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY, and devoted to every branch of MARKET POULTRY CULTURE. Its field is in the suburbs of cities, large towns, villages, and on the farms of all America. It contains

Brief Hints for Busy People.

Those who have not time to read and experiment upon theories, but who want to get helpful, practical suggestions, which may be put into practice daily.

A FEW HENS is a "boiled down" journal. It is not padded—saying, in as few words as possible, what is necessary—giving the cream and not the skim-milk of practical poultry information.

MUCH IN LITTLE.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hammonton, N. J. To whom all exchanges and communications for publication should be addressed.

The editor is actively engaged in making poultry experiments, and in this journal alone, he will publish from time to time the result of his work.

Subscriptions, advertisements, and all business matters must be sent to publication office at Boston.

A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL HINTS.

Utility!

Hail, gentle Spring!

"Bumptious individuals"—bah!

Don't tease the fighting rooster.

Overcrowding is a foe to thrift.

Business poultry vs. fancy fowls.

Lazy hens are not money-makers.

You may "know it all", but we don't.

Standard-bred don't mean egg-bred.

Buy your eggs from utility breeders.

System and regularity bring success.

The broodies are asserting themselves.

Are you forgetful? Train your memory.

Keep a record—memory is treacherous.

How much "dead" stock did you winter?

Practically, the poultry year begins now.

Give the early chicks a "warm reception."

Drawbacks are often blessings in disguise.

Mongrelism in stock, and fogysm in ideas, are on par.

Eggs, broilers and roasters—that's poultry business for you.

The New York show evidently don't believe in "egg displays."

The Jersey Blues have gone. Goodby to an excellent breed for caponizing.

The "five points of Calvinism" are applicable to the poultry business: Availability, adaptability, efficiency, cleanliness, economy.

Experimental Farm Notes.

Setting Hens—Feather Pulling and Egg Eating—Cost of Feeding Ducks—Selling Eggs for Hatching—Feed House and Incubator Room Next—Numbering the Houses.

The ducks have started in laying with full force. We have been compelled to sell these early eggs as we are not quite ready yet to run our incubators and brooders. Considerable bad weather the past month has delayed building operations.

At present we are setting hens on Brahma, Wyandotte and common eggs. We will market these chicks, excepting the best of the Brahmas.

Our incubator room will be fitted out with three Prairie State incubators—about 700 egg capacity. The brooders are for outdoors. By fall we intend having a small brooder house erected so as to compare both methods.

The old ducks which did such great laying last season, have started in fine form this year, with good prospects of at least equaling last season's performance.

During the past month we had a little experience with feather-pulling among our common hens, and egg eating in a flock of Brahma pullets. We got rid of the feather-pulling by killing every guilty hen we found. To get the egg eater was a more difficult job. We adopted the following plan: In a small house, in which was a nest and an egg, we would pen a pullet (only one at a time). If the egg was not touched by night, we tried another, and so on until at last we came to an old hen. She was the guilty one. No sooner did we place her near the egg when she began vigorously pecking it. This hen got overfat for us, and was on the verge of breaking down. So, in order to save her, we put her in this pen of pullets, which, by the way, did not have a male attendant. We noticed one day that she laid a soft-shelled egg (the result of the overfat), and surmise that she must have accidentally broken one of these eggs, which soon taught her the habit. We discovered the vice in time.

* * *

Much has been said about the cost of feeding ducks. We have always contended that a duck can be kept a year for two dollars. A glance at our account book shows that our sixty-five ducks cost \$11.71 for feed alone for January. This leaves a fraction over eighteen cents per duck, per month. At that rate the cost would be \$2.16. But the account for January included \$3.00 worth of crushed oyster shells, which will last us another month.

It is but fair to state that our duck feed was purchased in small quantities. Had we the room to store 500 or 1,000 pounds of each ingredient used in the bill of fare, we could make the cost considerably less. But then the average beginner has to buy in one hundred pound lots, and it is but right that we should do so, that we may be able to give closer figures. We are keeping accurate accounts of feed for both chickens and ducks, so that by another year we can tell just what it will cost to feed. As we are not giving cheap food, but instead the very best known to poultry science, regardless of cost, we can give a better showing than what is generally reported.

* * *

As we are having more duck and Leghorn eggs than can be handled at the present time, we have concluded to sell a limited number of sittings. Some of our neighbors, and visitors, have prevailed upon us to dispose of a few sittings of the Brahma and Wyandotte eggs, but we do not care to do that, as we prefer hatching them ourselves and sell the stock later on. Of course, when we have the eggs to spare, we are glad to have a customer, as the success of our two acre experiment depends upon our sales, whether it be eggs to market, or eggs for hatching; or whether it be broilers and roasters, or breeding stock. We want to turn our product into money as quickly as possible. But we have no exhibition stock. We have not the time, nor can we afford to mate up for show purposes. What we have are thoroughly pure-bred, having all the characteristics of the breed, but mated and bred for utility. We claim more honor in that kind of work than any other.

* * *

Work will begin on our feed house in a few weeks, and to this house will be added the incubator room. We will try a room before we decide if a cellar is necessary. This room will have a double wall, with Cabot's Insulating Quilt between the walls. There will be thorough ventilation in the room, and we believe we can make a success of such a place for incubators. If we can, we will have a room at about one-half the cost of the cellar. If a failure, then we can turn it into the latter.

* * *

Another improvement that we have made is to number each house. For instance, the duck houses are numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10; the hen houses, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. As we gather the eggs (which we do several times a day), we mark on each egg the number of the pen that laid it, and the date it was gathered. This gives us a chance to see which pens are doing the best,

and how the pens of the different varieties of fowls compare. This will enable us to breed from our best pens.

Later on we intend arranging matters, so that we may know which individual hens are doing their best. We are at present investigating a plan, which, if it will prove feasible, we will divulge later on.

These numbers on the houses are cut out of zinc, and are four inches in length, with proportional widths.

Eggs and Egg Farming.

Hints of Value—Heavy Laying Brahmas—Does Mash Have a Tendency to Produce Infertility?—Artificially Hatched and Reared Leghorns.

Market often.

Feed for eggs.

Easter eggs next.

Be honest—date the eggs.

Egg-bred hens to the front.

Breed from your best layers.

Half-darkened nests are best.

An infertile egg never rots.

Clean eggs are a recommendation.

Don't disturb the hens while laying.

Gather the eggs several times a day.

Keep the eggs in a rack or egg box.

The energetic hen gives best returns.

Regular shipments keep up the income.

Don't market or use eggs from sick hens.

Honesty in the egg business is imperative.

Sort up your market eggs according to color.

It is characteristic of the laying hen to be nervous.

Eggs for hatching should be turned every other day.

Tested unfertile eggs can generally be sold to bakers.

Egg records will sell more poultry than will the score card.

Keep the eggs standing end up—no matter which end.

The egg-eating hen should be compelled to go out of business.

"Strictly fresh eggs" are supposed to be not more than three days old.

Eggs absorb odors very readily, says *Rural New-Yorker*, and should be kept in a clean place.

The room in which eggs for hatching are kept, should not be less than 50 degrees in temperature.

Better sell fresh eggs at a low price, than to try to preserve them to encourage dishonest methods.

If the cockerel has favorite hens, better remove him from the flock every other day, and substitute another, if you wish strong fertility.

"Eggs are ready for market the moment they are laid," says an exchange. They are if they are not dirty. The man who will not clean his eggs deserves poor prices.

The Felch Brahma hen that laid 195 eggs in one year, which in last month's A FEW HENS was stated belonged to a Natick man, should have been credited to Hartnest Farm, Framingham, Mass.

Feed the best layers well, says H. W. Collingwood, in *Rural New-Yorker*, and then breed from them. Look for good shape and vigor in the male, but go to the hen for the egg-laying habit.

On the farm of A FEW HENS, the eggs under setting hens were tested (February 21) as follows: 26 Light Brahma eggs, 5 infertile; 20 common eggs, 2 infertile. These hens were fed mash every morning, which destroys the theory that soft feed has a tendency to produce infertility.

Fred Burton, Homer City, Pa., writes: "No doubt you will be interested in the success I had in raising the chicks you saw at my place when here. If you remember, I hatched 125, and raised 125, not losing one. I retained three dozen of these which were pullets, disposing of the balance. They commenced laying about the 1st of November, and counting from December 1st up to the present time (February 5), they have laid an average of eighteen eggs per day. These chickens, you are aware, were hatched in the Prairie State incubator and raised in a Prairie State brooder. So much for theory which a great many claim, that chickens hatched in an incubator and raised in a brooder, are not equal in every respect to those hatched and reared by the mother hen. Practical experience certainly should prove this theory to be wrong. I have always been able to raise as good, strong chicks with incubators and brooders, especially the Prairie State, as any I ever saw raised by the mother hen."

About Broilers and Roasters.

Hints on Marketing—The Boston Show Display of Dressed Poultry—Items of Interest and Value.

Quality counts.

Poor stuff goes a-begging.

Monday is a good killing day.

Let your goods be gilt-edged.

Have your business tag on all goods you sell.

Market poultry has boomed the white breeds.

The head must remain on the dressed carcass.

It requires about four eggs to make one broiler.

Market chickens of uniform grade, color and size.

Mongrel poultry do not make a uniform shipment.

Market quotations in the newspapers are always wholesale.

Thoroughbreds, or first crosses, make the best dressed poultry.

Broilers vs. roasters—which do you find the most profitable?

White Wonders. Utility breeders' fowl. Eggs \$2 per set; 3 sets, \$5. A. L. Merrill, Auburn, Me.

CUT CLOVER in sacks. \$1.00 for 100 pounds. I. G. QUIRIN, Tioga Center, N. Y.

EMPIRE STATE BROODERS are best. Cir. free. W. H. CROZIER, Hall's Corners, N. Y.

S. C. BL. MINORCAS, Northrup strain, prolific laying stock, carefully selected and mated. Eggs \$2.00 per 13. G. F. BARKER, St. Albans, Vt.

FOR SALE. WHITE WYANDOTTE EGGS. \$1.50 per 13; \$4 per 40. WM. RULLMANN, Annapolis, Md.

EGGS for Hatching. Pure-bred B. P. Rocks, B. M'n'r's and W. Wyand's. Farm raised prolific laying stock. \$1 per 13. E. C. German, Fort Plain, N. Y.

WHITE P. ROCKS. Eggs \$1.00 per sitting; 3 sittings \$2.25; \$4 per 100. Pure-bred stock. H. L. WIMPENNEY, 2d, Edgartown, Mass.

Utility and Beauty combined in my Black Minorcas and B. P. Rocks. Prolific layers; large, healthy, vigorous stock; raised on unlimited range. Eggs in season. FRED. E. PILE, Cleveland, Ohio.

RAISE QUAILS.

There is more money in raising quails than in almost any other branch of the poultry business. With ordinary attention, any one can easily clear from one to two thousand dollars a year. Two dozen quails can be fed in place of one turkey, and there is more than double the profit in them. Send 25 cts. in one or two cent stamps for book explaining everything; also where to obtain fine domestic birds. Address, C. GROSS, Bebra, (Morgan Co.), Mo.

EUREKA NEST BOX,

Hartnest Strain of LIGHT BRAHMAS

Noted for size, profuse toe feathering, black flights, early maturity and great egg production.

High Water Mark; 195 Eggs in One Year! A few strong colored breeding cockerels for sale, \$5 and up. Eggs running high in fertility, one sitting \$3; two sittings \$5. Full pedigree with stock or eggs, free of charge, when requested. Send stamp for circular.

NOTE—I pay express charges if birds are not as represented. Satisfaction or money refunded.

HART NEST YARDS,
Framingham, Mass.

"Fresh and choice" has an important meaning in market poultry.

Warmth, fresh air and exercise are three secrets in broiler raising.

Small, poor, scraggy birds, half-dressed, always meet with poor returns.

A "large roaster" means a plump, soft chicken of four or five pounds weight.

The broiler weight in March is 1 1-4 pounds each; April, 1 1-2 lbs.; May, 1 1-4 to 2 pounds.

At Owl's Nest Farm, Framingham, Mass., a specialty of three-quarter pound broilers is made.

"Stop raising scrubs if you want to get good prices for your poultry products," says W. D. Rudd.

Eighty cents a pound was the high-water mark in Hammonton broilers, when the industry first started.

The *American Stock Keeper* says commission men assert that Plymouth Rock broilers sell better than any other kind.

Old cock birds have a special classification in market, and do not come under the head of "large roasting fowls."

"In our experience the fat hens are the profitable ones," says the *Southern Fancier*. So they are—if sent to market.

F. W. Proctor says that for heavy weight, nothing will surpass the Light Brahma when bred without reference to fine points.

Don't kick the commission man because he cuts the price on your stock on account of quality. He is well booked in that science. Better profit by his teaching.

Plump chickens, neatly dressed, free from pin feathers, with unsoiled skin, and with perfectly clean legs, will command a sale when inferior looking stock goes begging.

FARMERS' INCUBATOR. Best and Cheapest. 200-egg, \$5.50. Brooder, \$2.50. 90 per ct. guaranteed. Farmers' Incubator Co., McComb, O.

BUSINESS CHICKENS!

Lt. Brahmas, Felch strain. R. C. Brown Leghorns. Eggs, \$1 per 13. Only a limited number of Brahma orders will be taken, so book your orders now by payment of one half. No circulars. W. C. STEPHENS, Clearfield, Penna.

The Standard
of value in insecti-
cides is

LEE'S Lice Killer.



Our original discovery of a liquid that would kill lice without actual contact, and which would keep the poultry house and fowls free from the vermin, by occasionally painting it on the roost poles, etc., has never been equaled, though hundreds of imitations and formulae "as good as Lee's" have been offered to a long suffering public. Our customers in '95 were our customers in '96 and '97, with tenfold additions; and orders are already pouring in to supply the demand for '98. We can supply you THE BEST from our nearest agent (3,500 of them in U. S.) or you can take an agency for '98, and make a few \$\$\$\$\$. Agents supplied quickly and promptly from six distributing points. Full information with circulars and testimonials, and special inducements to new agents, on application. Retail price:—1-2 gal., .50; 1 gal., .75; 5 gal., \$3. **GEO. H. LEE CO.,** (Box 56,) Exeter, Neb.

That shows which hens lay, has been in use in my pens for past three seasons. Shows the pedigree of every fowl on my place. Circulars of Nest Box Free for Stamp.

For a general poultry farm—eggs, broilers and roasters, three breeds should be kept: Mediterranean, for summer eggs; American, for small roasters, broilers and winter eggs; Asiatic, for large roasters and winter eggs.

What is wanted today by the 'fancy' says the *Maine Farmer*, "is a clean yellow skin, showing unmistakable evidence of fine grain and good thickness on breast and sides of breast bone. More than this mars rather than improves."

At ten cents, a hen that weighs five pounds represents a value of fifty cents, which will compare quite favorably in price with the same weight of beefsteak, to say nothing of the trouble and expense of getting the hens to market, says the poultry editor of the *North-western Horseman*.

W. D. Rudd, the Boston commission merchant, says poultry that is thin, white meated, poorly picked, and of a size that is not wanted by any customers; something that is too small to use for a roaster, or too large for a broiler, is of little value. Certainly such stock is not thrown away, but it has to be sold at low figures.

Boston does more to bring into public notice the utility qualities of purebred poultry than any place in the east, says the *Baltimore Sun*. The display of dressed purebred poultry is a great educational feature at the Boston poultry show. During the last show there was a pair of dressed Light Brahmas that weighed 27 lbs. How many dressed scrubs it would take to weigh that much, and how much more food it would take to get an equal weight of dressed scrubs, are practical questions, the solution of which would, doubtless, open the eyes of some people, who believe a chicken is a chicken, and nothing more. About two dozen poultry and 6,000 dozen eggs were on exhibition.

Turkey Culture.

Valuable Hints About Marketing—Diseases and Simple Remedies—Soil Required—Pointers on Hatching—The Faithful Old Gobbler.

The hen turkeys sell first.

Medium-sized carcasses sell best in market.

Eternal vigilance is the price of turkey eggs.

The turkey should take the place of the eagle as our national emblem.

Mashed potatoes mixed with cornmeal, varied with shelled corn, are excellent for fattening.

When a turkey is the least bit indisposed, it will draw its head down between its shoulders and refuse food.

A turkey can cover from 15 to 20 eggs; a hen will hardly be able to cover more than 7 to 12, according to size.

Eight hens are sufficient for one cock, and with that number nearly or quite 200 young can be raised, says *Rural New-Yorker*.

It is claimed the excellent Narragansett turkey is bred to greater perfection in Rhode Island than any other state, and it might also be said in greater numbers.

Stock should be changed as often as every third year, says Miss E. A. Murray, in *Farm and Home*. Nature puts her protest on inbreeding by giving warning with club-footed and ill-conditioned chicks.

H. B. Geer says the market turkey should be shorter in legs and neck than is ordinarily the case, and very full in the breast. A compact body, meat and fat, rather than a large size and coarse structure.

Above all things, be gentle with your hens, make them know you are their best friend. This will tend to overcome their natural shyness and enable you to manage them to the best advantage, says *Rural New-Yorker*.

The best way to kill turkeys is to tie their feet together, hang the bird on a pole, cut the throat so as to bleed freely. Dry pick them, leaving head and wings on. After picked, dip in hot water, and then in cold. This will give the skin a fresher look.

A correspondent in *Tri-State Farm News* thinks it best to market the young toms in December, as they will usually fall in price after the holidays; but it is usually best to keep the hens until later, as they increase in weight and subsequently command a better price.

"I would not advise any one, however, to embark in turkey rearing unless the locality be a dry one; for a damp, marshy, cold soil is fatal, and no amount of drainage can make it fit for turkeys," writes a correspondent in *Rural New-Yorker*. "No matter how rocky, sandy or broken it may be, the fowls will be healthy; in fact, if the soil does not contain sand and gravel, both should be provided."

A correspondent in *Farm and Home* says: "My advice to those who wish to raise turkeys with a common hen is, 'Don't'. Turkeys raised around the house are a nuisance. The average turkey is much superior in intelligence to the average hen. She is a better mother, having better judgment, more patience, more self-poise in time of trouble. The turkey can take care of the chickens as well, if not better than the hen, and as for raising young turkeys, she knows just what they want; the hen does not."

"In spite of all our care, young turkeys have a disagreeable habit of dying," writes Miss E. A. Murray. "The causes are filth, close confinement and improper food. Prevention is better than cure. I do not have much luck in doctoring the symptoms; I try to remove the cause. I occasionally use a few remedies, a little hot milk for a weakling, a little cayenne pepper in their food, a small dose of sweet oil for constipation, thorough searching for lice, and greasing under the wings for the same. For gapes the same remedies we apply as to chickens. I never saw a turkey that got its living in the fields that had the gapes."

"The gobbler comes in as a factor," writes Miss Murray. "If he is what he ought to be, he will go with the mother, help her take care of the chicks during the day, and hover over them at night, and if she lays again, take entire charge of the flock. I have seen hen turkeys fly up into a tree with the older ones, and leave the younger ones on the ground, and my old fine gobbler has come down off his perch and hovered them night after night. I have seen him coax with exquisite tact and patience, the timid turkeys raised by a hen, and when he succeeded in gaining their confidence, what a proud and loving father he was."

The Dighton Poultry Yards. Barred Plymouth Rocks, Brown Egg strain. Eggs \$1.00 per sitting. A. A. SIMMONS, P. O. Box, 104, Dighton, Mass.

EGGS. S. C. White and S. C. Brown Leghorn. First quality stock. \$1.00 per 13. A Wooden hen, \$4. W. Hahman, Box 3, Altoona, Pa.

EGGS ARE WANTED by all poultry keepers. How to get them is told in our pamphlets, which we send free to all interested in poultry.

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Bay City, Mich.

OUR WARRANT calls for the hatching of 80 per cent. of the fresh fertile eggs that are placed in our **RELIABLE INCUBATOR** when the instructions are followed as laid down. You will understand how it is possible for us to make such an unparalleled guarantee, when you read our Poultry Guide and Combined Incubator and Brooder Catalogue. A book that contains an immense amount of poultry lore, and of great value to every poultry fancier. Sent for 10c. **Reliable Incubator & Brooder Co., QUINCY, ILLINOIS.**



I. K. FELGH & SON,
Box K, Natick, Mass.
Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks, and White Wyandottes,
—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—
Standard Points and Egg Records Combined.
Enclose stamps for 24 page catalogue,

Geese for Profit.

A Few Valuable Hints Gathered From the Experience of Geese Growers.

Geese make their own nests.

Market young stock in October.

Apples are excellent for geese.

Wild ganders will mate with but one goose.

Cabbage makes excellent food for old and young.

Five goose eggs are about all a hen can comfortably set on.

Beets, turnips, carrots and potatoes can be fed either cooked or raw.

It is best not to have the goslings hatched before the grass has started to grow.

Howard says the Toulouse is called a Christmas goose, as it matures just about right for the holidays.

When the tips of the wings reach the tail—which is about at ten weeks of age—the geese are ready for market.

The Africans, Toulouse and Brown Chinas have black pin feathers, which make them difficult to pick when dressed as green geese.

According to the Rhode Island Experiment Station, the cross of Embden-Toulouse will develop more quickly than the Embden-African.

It is said that it is much harder to dress a gosling in cold weather. The feathers set tighter, and in picking them the flesh is torn.

The Rhode Island Experiment Station Report, says every grower of goslings who would produce large birds for the least money, should see that his flock is well provided with an abundance of tender, nutritious pasturage, and promptly supplement any lack in that direction by a suitable supply of soiling crops.

JAMES W. SMITH, Perkiomenville, Pa. Breeder of sixteen leading varieties of Poultry. Eggs \$1.00 per 15; \$3.00 per 60. Catalogue Free.

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.
December 1, 1897, 1st, 3rd, 5th
cockerels. 1st, 4th, 5th, pullets.
1st pen on 8 entries Buff Leghorns.
Eggs, \$3.00 per 13; \$5.00 per 26.
L. S. BACHE, Box D,
BOUND BROOK, N. J.

Barred Plymouth Rocks. My special laying strain. Mated with exhibition males, only \$1 a sitting. A few sittings from special exhibition matings, at \$2. **P. D. AURANDT,** Altoona, Pa.

White Wyandotte Eggs from the best large, fine, prolific stock. \$1.50 per 13; \$2.50 per 26; \$3.00 per 39. **Wm. F. Stroud,** Merchantville, N. J.

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TIFFIN, OHIO.

A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER,
Hammonton, N. J.

Published Once a Month.

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Price, monthly Three Cents.

By the year, Twenty-Five Cents.

Send all orders to

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About seven ordinary words make one line. There is fourteen lines in each inch space, single column.

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EDITORIAL.

The way subscriptions have poured in during the past two months, has been greater than we could have expected. It looks as if every person who owns "a few hens" must have A FEW HENS! Our office force has been working hard, day and night, to keep up with the rush, but it was simply impossible. Those who are cognizant of the work, know that green hands can not be of any help, so that the entire labor fell upon our regular force. This made it late for many subscriptions to be entered, and the copies sent out. These delays, naturally, brought complaints.

The clerks have about caught up with their work now, and we hope to be better fortified in the future for any and all attacks of that kind.

A FEW HENS seems to have "hit the nail upon the head." The brevity plan is a howling success. It is hard editorial work, but it pays—and we are gratified to know that our efforts are appreciated.

By the way, reader, if there are any pointers that you know, and which we have not yet published, we should be glad to have them. Give us facts from your experience. They will be welcomed both by the editor and the readers.

Advertisers are fast opening their eyes to the grand results obtained in A FEW HENS. Our rates are not only the lowest (half a cent a line for every thousand circulation—10 cents a line for the April issue, which will have 20,000 circulation), but our paper goes direct to beginners as well as to those already in the business of raising poultry for market. Thousands read A FEW HENS who never saw any other poultry journal. Our plan of circulating samples is different from that employed by any other poultry publication. Try an advertisement with us and be convinced.

And the words of good cheer continue to come:

I. K. Felch & Son, Natick, Mass., write that they are well pleased with their advertisement in A FEW HENS.

C. E. White, manager of Woodhid Farm, Fox Chase, Philadelphia, Pa., writes: "A FEW HENS contains the whole thing in a nutshell; it's the busy man's paper."

A. F. Cooper, of the Prairie State Incubator Co., Homer City, Pa., writes that they never had

so much mail, and so large a trade as they have this year—and A FEW HENS is responsible for much of it.

D. Shields, Pennsylvania, writes: "There is not today a fifty cent paper published that is so much help to a man with a few hens as yours. I thought I had outgrown it, but find just the hints I need to keep up to the wants of my few chicks, which I would otherwise neglect."

H. W. Cramer, Indiana, writes: "Your A FEW HENS is a great help to me. It is the largest amount done up in the smallest package I have ever received."

Emory Banks, in *Practical Poultryman*, says: "A FEW HENS comes out with some nice illustrations which adds much to its usefulness as well as attractiveness."

Chas. H. Belknap, Connecticut, writes that A FEW HENS is all "meat." Just the thing for a busy man.

E. H. Carter, Missouri, writes: "Some time ago I came across a copy of A FEW HENS. I casually glanced at it, and before I was aware of it I was deeply interested in perusing every line of reading matter, and all advertisements. After reading and re-reading its pages, I came to the conclusion I must have A FEW HENS, and ordered the paper at once."

Some time ago we mentioned that a poultry class was to be organized at the Rhode Island College of Agriculture. The start has been made, and to show the value of the lessons taught, we quote as follows from a letter to the College, by that veteran poultryman, Isaac K. Felch:

"It was my privilege to appear before the Pioneer Poultry Club, of Rhode Island College, in the closing days of the special four weeks' course of instruction in poultry culture, to present the decimal system in poultry judging, and to initiate the pupils into the mode of applying the American Standard of Perfection according to this system.

"I am free to say that my mind has changed very much regarding the efficacy of such a course of study. I cannot say that I was, last fall, very deeply impressed with the plan, but I wish now to be put on record as endorsing, in the strongest terms, the advantages that can and will be secured by those who are to choose poultry culture as a calling, in taking such a course of study. What of theory, science and training is thus learned will be found advantageous and useful by all intelligent enough to see its bearings. For example, take the becoming familiar with embryology. How many poor fellows like myself and others have lost in the sacrifice of eggs alone, because of lack of knowledge of these mysteries, sufficient to have paid the small tuition for this course of instruction many times over. The dissecting of fowls to study their anatomy and learn what parts especially are liable to disease, the study of chemical composition of poultry foods, the cooking lessons, the consideration of the principles of breeding, methods of mating and points in judging—all this and much more effected in a few weeks, while many of us have taken years to wade through the blunderings and pit-falls of a hap-hazard experience, to secure the same amount of knowledge in a far more imperfect condition.

"I am sixty-four years old, and have thought I was able to teach in the art of poultry culture, but I say to you, that the forty minutes which I spent in the lecture room, where embryology was being taught, were worth, to me, a snug sum of money just for the train of thought that was awakened in me, and for the clearing up of several points in chicken incubation that I thought I had already understood.

"These young students start with clear ideas, which will make personal experience tell for success. If I am any judge of human nature, a larger percentage of that class will be successful in the poultry business than are the average in other callings. These students were not afraid to ask questions. They were ready to give up the moments between lectures to continue the discussions.

"My best wishes go with the class. May their success be in keeping with their advantages is the earnest desire of
I. K. FELCH."

"Shall we doctor our fowls?" is a question that seems to be agitating some "brilliant"

minds. Shall we let them die? Shall we not doctor the simple ailment to avoid the serious sickness? Such men like J. H. Davis love to harp upon one string. They even go so far as to say there are no poultry diseases. To be contrary is to be popular, seems to be their idea of popularity. They are on par with the Christian Science people, and are just about as successful in the poultry yard as the Science humbugs are in restoring sick people to health.

At the recent Boston show, the first and second prizes for best broilers (ranging from 2 1-2 to 3 1-2 pounds to the pair) were awarded to Longview Poultry Farm, Hyattsville, Md. The credit for this victory is due to George G. Harley, the expert manager of Longview. As Mr. Harley is a Hammonton broiler raiser, A FEW HENS rejoices all the more. Mr. John L. Waggaman, the gentlemanly proprietor of Longview, is to be congratulated upon having secured such a valuable expert—who has placed this farm in the front rank of successful poultry enterprises.

The American Poultry Association, at its Boston meeting, eliminated from the Standard, the Dominique Leghorns, Peacomb Barred Plymouth Rocks, Jersey Blues, White Javas and Campines. We are rather surprised to see the Peacomb Plymouth Rocks thrown out, for we thought they were in for a boom, Mr. Babcock the originator, having all sorts of promises for them. The Dominique Leghorns and the Campines, never should have been admitted, while the Jersey Blues were a dead issue for some years. The success of the White Plymouth Rocks no doubt killed the White Javas.

In return, the Anconas, White Indian Games, Light and Dark Brahma bantams, Buff Polish bantams, and the Indian Runner ducks were admitted. There must have been strong pressure brought to bear to admit the Indian Runner ducks. What do we know about them? They are as yet strangers in this country. Our Standard makers should not be too hasty in admitting new varieties. An example of that haste was shown in the admission of the Campines. Yet, withal, the Indian Runner ducks may prove to be a valuable acquisition to our practical breeds. We hope the Standard men have not made a mistake.

The editor of A FEW HENS recently paid a visit to Homer City, Pa., to inspect the immense works owned and operated by the Prairie State Incubator Company. In order to give a better idea to what extent this business has been brought, we have taken pains to get an account of the machinery and business in general.

The Company is composed of A. F. Cooper and J. L. Nix, both young men. Mr. Nix is the inventor of the machines, and superintendent of the works, and Mr. Cooper has general charge of the sales and outside trade. It is a good team. When the Prairie State Company first began doing business, Mr. Nix did all the work in building the machines, and was thankful when he could have enough orders on hand to keep him busy—today sixty men, mostly mechanics, are regularly employed.

The boiler room of the factory is 40x30 feet, with two 40-horse power boilers. The room is underground, and all sawdust is conveyed by a Sturtevant exhaust from the factory to the boiler room. This room is seventy-five feet away from the main buildings. The Sturtevant hot blast is used for drying lumber, which will, in from two to seven days, do what formerly took a month by the old methods.

The other machinery are as follows: Horizontal engine; Fay double surfacing, matching and molding machine, capacity 6x24 inches, which cost eight hundred dollars; Fay

molding machine, 8-inch capacity; heavy rip saw; combination saw table and dado machine; Fay tenouter, two heads and two copes; panel raising machine; automatic Cowdrey back knife lathe, turning an incubator leg complete in twenty seconds; power mortiser; ordinary hand turning lathe; metal planing machine, 24 x 30 inches, by six feet; Bliss stamping press, capacity 10-inch circle; metal turning lathe, 18-inch swing, 10-foot bed; Prentiss drill, 28-inch, back geared; Embrey grind stones, and buffing and emery wheels; 72-inch cornice brake, for forming up tanks—this machine is their own design and make; 30-inch squaring shears; circle shears; complete tinsmith outfit, consisting of rolls, formers, headers, burroughs, setting down, pipe forming, breaks, etc., and five soldering furnaces heated by natural gas; clamp machine; 12-inch jointer; former; band and scroll saws; boring machine; combination saw for fine work; trimmer, three sand papering machines.

Besides the above machinery there are power elevators, nine factory trucks, and three heavy flange trucks on railway tracks, for carrying material.

The works consist of a three-story building 48 x 64 feet; two-story building 32 x 104 feet; warehouse, 50 x 112 feet, connected by a tunnel to the three-story building; large office building with three handsomely furnished rooms; and a tinning building. The entire plant is heated by steam and illuminated at night by natural gas.

As both Messrs. Cooper and Nix started this business poor men, and as they built this gigantic plant entirely from the proceeds of the concern; and as they now are heavy real estate owners in the town, and are not a dollar in debt, either personal or business, is it not a handsome testimonial that they are building incubators and brooders that are of superior quality, and do what is claimed for them? Send for their latest catalogue which illustrates this entire factory, and gives views of all the big poultry plants in the country that are using none but the Prairie State Incubators and brooders.

Ducks and Ducklings.

Pointers on Hatching Duck Eggs With Hens—Facts Drawn Out of an Experience on the Farm of A FEW HENS.

A sandy soil is best for ducks.

Let the ducks make their own nests.

The duck industry is on the increase.

Give water the first thing in the morning.

Duck eggs over a week old do not hatch so well.

The older the duck the less nervous she becomes.

Artificial incubation developed the duck industry.

Contagious diseases are practically unknown in the duck family.

On A FEW HENS farm, the best laying ducks are the smallest in size.

The Aylesbury duck raisers believe in small matings—generally four ducks to one drake.

A heavy soil is readily polluted, and should be cleaned and ploughed at least once a month.

The strips in the trays of hen-egg machines are hardly wide enough apart to take in duck eggs.

We are experimenting at outcrossing a pen of Aylesbury ducks with a Pekin drake. Reports later on.

Some epicures claim that the flesh of the Cayuga duck is finer and sweeter than that of the Pekin.

Nine eggs in early spring, and eleven eggs later on, are about all that a hen can comfortably take care of.

After cleaning the yards from snow, bed a section near the house. It will be enjoyed, and prevent suffering from cold feet.

Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, in his report, states that ducks grow larger and mature faster if kept entirely away from water.

The heavy coat of feathers makes the duck rain, wind and cold proof, to a considerable extent, but they suffer very easily from cold feet.

It seems a pity that the Cayuga (the only American duck) is not adapted to market culture. But the black pin feathers give it the refusal.

After ducklings are dry, they are more or less restless. This often makes the hen nervous, and she is apt to accidentally tread upon them.

In hatching ducks under hens, it is best to remove them from the nest the moment they are dry, as the hen is very apt to tread upon them.

Hens make good incubators for duck eggs, but very poor mothers. The duckling is too weak in the legs to keep up with the activity of the mother hen.

There is more labor attached to duck raising than to any other branch of poultry culture, but the profits are better when the business is once understood.

Besides a trough of oyster shells constantly before the ducks, they should be supplied with coarse sand or chick-sized grit mixed in their mash, once a day.

Generally ducks lay at night, but occasionally they will lay at all hours of the day. On A FEW HENS farm, a duck recently put off laying until six o'clock in the evening.

As duck eggs are much larger than hen eggs, they should be tested on the seventh day. Removing the infertile eggs gives more room for the fertile ones, and the hen will have a better hatch.

Henry Steinmesch says the regular laying season commences about January 20, and a fair average is four eggs per week, per duck, from that time on to June 20, after which they gradually let down, stopping entirely towards the last of July.

Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.

Hints Upon Treatment of Sour Crop, Indigestion, Pip, Air Blisters, Catarrh of Nose, Sores, Rotted Feathers, Bowel Troubles, Leg Weakness, Costiveness, Brain and Nerve Afflictions, Swelled Head, Warts, Etc.

Poultry surgery is a lost art.

Egg bound is a fat hen ailment.

Gout is too aristocratic for the poultry yard.

Acute bowel inflammation will run its course in four days.

A little castor oil with burnt butter, is recommended for costiveness.

Using weak stock in the breeding yards invites disease to the offspring.

There is danger of canker setting in from neglected cuts made in fighting.

The symptoms of gout and inflammatory rheumatism are practically the same.

Keep the fowl from drinking water a few hours before administering medicine.

Organic diseases of the heart, rupture, and fatty degeneration of the heart, are incurable.

Some fanciers have great faith in the efficacy of urine applied as a cure for rotted feathers.

In itself, swelled head is not roup, but when the lumps appear, it is one of the stages of that disease.

Four drops of tincture of aconite, in half a pint of drinking water, is excellent for catarrh of the nose.

Two drops of tincture of nux vomica in a quart of drinking water, is recommended for leg weakness.

Powdered gentian and cayenne in the food, of which the usual quantity should be lessened, are useful in cases of indigestion.

Wash the sores, secured in fighting, with whiskey, after which anoint with a little vaseline. Beat up a raw egg and add ten or twelve drops of whiskey for each bird.

The *Poultry Monthly* says: Cleanliness, good food, moderation in feeding, dry quarters, pure air, pure water to drink, and exercise, are the best aids against diseases of all kinds.



WE THINK YOU'D LIKE
THE STORY BETTER
IF WE LET OTHERS TELL IT:

"THE GREAT ROCHESTER SHOW"

OF THE

ROCHESTER POULTRY AND PIGEON
ASSOCIATION,

ROCHESTER, N. Y.,
Jan. 12, 1898.

GENTLEMEN:

I, as Judge of Pigeons at the Great Rochester Show, Jan. 10 to 15, 1898, at which the H-O Co.'s **Scratching Feed** was exclusively used for feeding the Pigeons, wish to say it is in my opinion a practical food. I heartily recommend it as such, and in future I shall use it entirely in my lofts.

Very truly yours,

H. A. KOONS.

N. B. As an exercising feed, or whole grain feed, this is *just the thing* for poultry.

Send for samples.

THE H-O COMPANY,
New York City.



Eczema is an eruption of the skin that usually comes on the face and wattles. It is due to an affection of the blood, brought on by improper conditions of housing and feeding.

V. M. Couch, in *Practical Poultryman*, advises this treatment for sour crop: Two teaspoonfuls of sugar and baking soda, in a teacupful of warm water. Give each afflicted fowl two teaspoonfuls once a day. Supply plenty of grit.

For warts on head, wash with castile soap and warm water. Wipe dry, and then anoint with an ointment made of ten parts sweet oil, one part of spirits of turpentine, one part of cedar oil, and half part carbolic acid. Repeat daily for a week.

One part spirits of turpentine and four parts sweet oil, is recommended for swelled head. Anoint head, face and comb daily. Twice a day give a pill of equal parts bromide of potassium and quinine—the pill to weigh one grain. In addition put a teaspoonful chlorate of potash to each quart of drinking water.

Wallace says the best remedy for diseases of the brain and nerves is bromide of potassium, three or four grains, dissolved in half gill of scalded milk, twice a day. The milk must be poured down the throat. After the third day reduce the dose to two grains. In the same way, bread soaked with milk must be given, as the fowl is unable to eat.

Air blisters often show themselves in young chicks. The skin puffs out and seems like a bladder of wind. It comes on the abdomen, sides, and under the wings and neck. Prick the blisters with a needle, to let the air out. Add carbonate of iron, alternated with granulated charcoal, daily, in the food. The diet should be oatmeal principally, with plenty of sharp grit within reach.

Bowel troubles will come to young chicks when they become chilled, or if they are given some food which does not agree with them. If G. M. Parkman, Ohio, will give scalded milk to drink, and use less bran and more middlings in the soft food, and occasionally break a raw egg in the feed, besides giving a teaspoonful of charcoal, two or three times a week, in the food, he will be able to master the trouble.

Richardson, an English authority, recommends in cases of pip, to anoint the tongue with fresh butter or cream. Give internally a pill about the size of a marble, composed of equal parts of scraped garlic and horseradish, with as much cayenne pepper as will outweigh a grain of wheat. Mix this with fresh butter, and give it every morning, keeping the fowl warm, confined alone, and constantly supplied with fresh water.

The following treatment for swelled head is excellent: Make an ointment of melted vaseline, and one teaspoonful of Johnson's Anodyne Linctament. Keep the two well mixed when cool, by stirring. First wash the head and nostrils with castile soap and warm water, and after dry rub the face with a few drops of the above ointment. Do this daily. Also give a one grain quinine pill twice a day, and put ten drops of aconite (homeopathic) in a quart of drinking water.

Pointers on Food and Feeding.

Danger in Feeding Oats—Feeding Hay—Comparison of Tables of Feed Stuff—A Few Timely Hints.

A balanced ration is best.

Soft feed increases egg production.

Heating the grain is a good practice.

Too much bran will loosen the bowels.

Too much middlings produces costiveness.

Wheat is cheaper than corn for laying hens.

Heat contains 89 pounds of solids to 11 pounds of water.

Charcoal, grit and crushed oyster shells should always be within reach.

Poultry Keeper says 100 pounds of milk, after it is skimmed, will contain 90 pounds of water.

The warm mash on a winter morning stimulates the blood, and takes off the chill of a cold night.

The old saying: "When the shell box is empty quickest, look for the most eggs," remains true today.

As hens differ, no two being alike, no man can inform you how to feed your flocks as well as he can his own, says the *Tennessee Farmer*. You can only know by observing your hens yourself.

Winter layers should not be watered until they are well toned up by exercise and food, or until the sun has warmed the coops, says a writer in *Tri-State Farm News*. Ten o'clock is a good hour, and it could be combined with the grain feed at this time.

The North Carolina Experiment Station Report says: All farmers have hay to spare, and a few pounds per week fed to the hens will greatly increase the egg production. Clover hay is best, but any kind is good. Cut into as short lengths as possible (1-4 to 1-2 inch) and in the evening fill a two-gallon bucket full, cover and place on the kitchen stove and allow it to boil as long as there is fire. In the morning allow the hay to heat again, then drain off the water and mix with the hay three quarts of wheat bran, or enough to make it crumbly. This will make nearly two gallons of feed. Give it to 100 hens as a morning feed.

D. L. Nazareth, Pa., writes: "A few days ago I fed whole oats to my fowls, and they soon took sick; two died. I then fed wheat instead and they all seemed to get well. Again I fed oats, with the same result, losing two more hens. I related my experience to some of my friends, and was told that they had the same trouble, and believed the oats too pointed, which irritated the crop. Is there any difference in oats, or is it in the feeding?" The main objection to oats are the hulls. These will pack the crop if fed too liberally. Hulled or clipped oats are best. Even then we believe in feeding oats only as a variety.

Eggs for Hatching. Barred Rock Eggs. Pure-bred st'k. \$1 pr. setting. Wm. Ely, Shilerville, Ct.

EGGS from B. P. Rocks and White Wyandottes. Bred for layers. F. E. Bancroft, Groveland, N. Y.

Edwin Snelgrove, 130 Fulton St., N. Y. Prize Winning Blue Andalusians and Light Brahmas.

CUT CLOVER in sacks, \$1.00 for 100 pounds. I. G. QUINN, Tioga Center, N. Y.

A. G. B. Jr., Pittsburgh, Pa., sends us the U. S. Department of Agriculture report on the nutritive values of feeding stuffs, which, compared with the one given in our January issue, by J. R. Laubach, shows quite a difference. Mr. Laubach, we believe, got his facts from the Pennsylvania State Board of Agriculture. Verily the doctors disagree:

Laubach Table.		U. S. Agri. Table.	
Corn,	1:11.9		1:9.7
Oats,	1:5.8		1:6.3
Wheat,	1:9.9		1:7.1
Bran,	1:3.8		1:4.3
Middlings,	1:4.8		1:4.8

The only place the above tables agree is in the case of middlings; there is considerable difference in the rest. Which is correct? We should rather rely upon the report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, as they have better facilities for securing a correct analysis.

SKUNK. I buy all kinds of FURS. Write for prices. J. I. GLEED, dealer in Raw Furs and Ginseng, East Amherst, N. Y.

PURE-BRED PLYMOUTH ROCK EGGS \$1.00 for 15; \$1.75 for thirty. Orders booked any time. J. A. YOST, Little Sioux, Iowa.

10 S. S. HAMBURG HENS for layers \$7.50. Good breeding trio, \$5.00. Eggs \$2.00 per 13. H. MILLER, Box 58 A., Sugar Grove, Pa.

SNOW WHITE P. ROCKS. Females, bred from prize winning stock, mated to superb cockerels from 200-egg a year birds. Eggs \$1.25 per 13. A. E. HUTCHINSON, Gilead, Conn.

B. P. ROCKS. Prolific layers of large brown egg. Coburn-Hunter strain. Bred for business. Eggs \$1 per 15; \$1.50 per 30. Sat. guaranteed. E. W. HARRIS, No. Acton, Mass.

H. A. STANLEY. South Carver, Mass. Breeder of Prize Winners S. C. Brown and Buff Leghorns. Eggs \$1 per 13. Pekin Duck Eggs \$1 per 11. Satisfaction guaranteed.

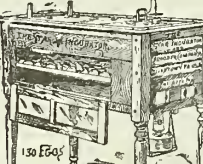
EGGS from prolific laying stock. Barred Plymouth Rocks and S. C. White Leghorns. \$1.00 per 15. "Square dealing" my motto. FRANK C. BURDICK, Rockville, R. I.



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THE NEW STYLE SUCCESSFUL INCUBATOR AND BROODER. Our NEW CATALOGUE and BOOK on POULTRY tells all about them and many OTHER THINGS the poultry man should know; worth a dollar but we send it for 6c. in stamps. Box Des Moines, Iowa.

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MANN'S GREEN BONE CUTTERS

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Are two great egg makers. They prove the triumph of science over guesswork. Success is certain. Hens will lay twice as many eggs when fed on green bone and grit.

MANN'S SWINGING FEED TRAY for poultry will save its cost in waste food alone. Hens cannot scratch food out of it, nor dirt into it, nor roost on it. We sell for cash or instalments. F.W. MANN CO., Milford, Mass.



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WITH THE MODEL EXCELSIOR INCUBATOR.

Simple, Perfect, Self-regulating. Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs, at less cost, than any other Hatcher.

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The Premier Green Bone Cutter

is fitted with BALL BEARINGS, which now makes Cutting Green Bones for fowls a very easy matter. Elegant illustrated catalogue, telling all about it, for stamp.

P. A. WEBSTER, . . . Box . . . CAZENOVIA, N. Y.

WHITE AND SILVER WYANDOTTE EGGS. \$2.00 FOR 13. WM. H. CHILDS, Glenside, Pa.

Artificial Hatching and Brooding.

Questions of the Day—Keeping a Record—Selecting Eggs for Hatching—Rudd's Johnny Cake.

Cleanliness is important.

Don't learn too quickly!

Don't get the brooders too hot.

Have you tested that thermometer?

Keep a record of your experiences.

Be sure to keep the brooders clean.

Do you fill your lamps every evening?

The older the egg the weaker the germ.

Is your incubator room free from foul odors?

Small flocks in the brooder prevent crowding to death.

Are you sure you have your regulators properly adjusted.

Chickens of different ages require different temperatures.

The "crying chick" is a good indication of something wrong.

Keep the chicks indoors until near noon during cool weather.

Cover the outside chick runs with wire, making them cat proof.

Eggs kept lying on their sides should be turned every other day.

Do not put the eggs in the incubator until you have given it a week's test.

W. H. Rudd says no brooder should be made to house more than fifty chicks.

For a limited number of chicks, the sectional or outdoor brooders are the best.

Are you attending to the incubator yourself? "Too many cooks spoil the soup."

The sun at midday is apt to increase the heat in the incubators and brooders. Be on the lookout

Have a good reason for any change you may make in the printed directions. Be sure you are right before you go ahead.

In the large broiler houses much is wasted by being compelled to heat the whole house to properly care for a few flocks.

As the lamps in an outdoor brooder are enclosed in a small box, care must be taken that the flame is not too high, or it may collect soot and catch fire.

Fasten a card to each incubator, stating when the hatch was started, when the tests were made, number of infertile eggs, number of chicks hatched, number dead in the shell, and a general description of the conduct of the machine during the entire three weeks.

W. H. Rudd is an enthusiast on the subject of Johnny cake for chickens, and gives the following formula in the *Poultry Monthly*: A very common and good formula is two-thirds cornmeal and one-third wheat flour, mixed with milk, if convenient, either sweet or sour, and enough soda to make it light, with say one egg to every four cups of meal, and two cups of flour, salted and sweetened to the taste.

In selecting eggs for your incubator, reject the undersized eggs, and the extra large ones, says the *Reliable Poultry Journal*. Double yolked eggs will not hatch, and the extra small eggs will hatch extra small and extra weak chicks, if they hatch at all. Also reject the rough-shelled and thin-shelled eggs, and it is a good plan to test the eggs by candling, or with an egg tester, and reject those with mottled shells, that is, with uneven, marbled looking shells. We have never known those mottled shelled eggs to hatch. Eggs with a ridge around them do not often hatch.

Light Brahma Eggs, \$2.00 for 15; \$3.00 for 30. Five Acre Poultry Farm, Cheviot-on-Hudson, N. Y.

EGGS for hatching. Strictly Pure W. Wyandotte and W. P. Rocks. 500 grand birds. Average egg production 200 each per year. \$1 per 13; \$4 per 100. WEEKS & THOMPSON, Peterboro, N. H.

18 3-4 Eggs per Month

Is the average of my **White Wyandottes** from Nov. 1 to Mar. 1. Superior stock selected for layers and good points from **Hunter, Felt and Knapp** strains. Eggs. GEO. W. CONABLE, Cortland, N. Y.

Notes in Passing.

News in the Market Poultry World—Hints that May be of Value—Choice Paragraphs from Our Exchanges.

The man who does not love a hen
Should not be ranked with gentlemen.
—*Farm Journal.*

Have you a root cutter?

Quick sales make poultry profitable.

Business poultrymen keep business fowls.

The "Eggs for Hatching" advertisements are in bloom.

Plow the yards once a week. Hand plows are cheap.

Trim the trees in the poultry yards, if you neglected doing so before.

The "Standard Editors" are now taking to blaguarding the utility men.

Plant all available land in lettuce, onions, and other crops that will afford green food for the stock.

"Make a working team of your pure-bred poultry," says the *Baltimore Sun*, "and let their yoke be utility and beauty."

Utility first and fancy second, is the motto of every poultryman who is working for the best interest of the poultry industry, is a wise saying by Emory Banks.

The more the farmer will study the egg question, the more convinced will he become that the only way to make a profit is to have hens comfortable, says *Iowa Homestead*.

It is estimated, says the *Ohio Farmer*, that if all or nearly all of our farmers could be induced to discard the scrubs and use only pure breeds, the increase in the value of poultry would be one hundred per cent.

Judge G. O. Brown makes this excellent suggestion: "All specimens of pure-bred poultry dressed for the display exhibits at the poultry shows, should have their neck and wing feathers retained to denote to what breed they belong."

Does soft food and forced egg production result in poor fertility? Here is a case that does not say so: On the farm of A FEW HENS, a pen of Brahma fowls (15 pullets and one cockerel) in the month of February gave a fertility of 85 per cent.

Inbreeding is one of the worst draw backs we have, to degenerate practical poultry, says Emory Banks, in *Practical Poultryman*. If we cannot live up to the standard without it (or any other damage to utility) we had better not breed standard bred poultry at all.

CUT CLOVER HAY

\$2.00 per 100 pounds. 50 pounds, \$1.10.

Best on the market. Send for circular.

WOODHID FARM, Fox Chase, Philadelphia, Pa.

WHITE WYANDOTTES. Great layers; Large size; Vigorous stock; Some of them non setters. At Hartford, Jan., '98, entered seven birds. They won 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th. Eggs \$2 per 13; \$5 per 39. W. H. SHUTE, Middletown, Conn.

A COW PEA. Not only "northern grown" but northern bred, and worth its weight in gold. The only true seed. Enough for 1-8 acre, 50¢, charges paid. No cheaper in any quantity. No free circulars. LEROY ROMINES, Martinsville, Illinois.

3 BUSINESS BREEDS. B. Lang., W. Wy., Barred P. Rocks. Thoroughbred stock. Eggs \$1.00—13; \$1.50—26; \$4.00—100. "Few Hens" one year free with each order. B. Lang., c'k'ls. \$2. Write for description. S. W. Johnson, Deering Centre, Me.

BIG BROWN EGGS

from early and prolific laying **Light Brahmas**. \$1.00 per sitting. No better stock anywhere. GEO. S. SMITH, Pike Station, N. H.

MONEY MAKERS.

Black Minorcas bred to earn bread by laying large eggs and lots of them. \$1.00 per set; \$1.75 for two sets. A. O. MATTISON, South Berlin, N. Y.

PEKIN DUCKS

are our specialty. We keep a thousand breeders and can furnish fresh fertile eggs till May 15. Our ducks have a very satisfactory record. If you've not seen it, it'll pay you to get our booklet; it's free. Eggs—11, \$2.00; 22, \$4.00; 50, \$6.00; 100, \$10.00. F. O. B. New York City. A. J. HALLOCK, (Atlantic Farm) Box H, Speonk, L. I., N. Y.

White Plymouth Rock

EGGS FOR HATCHING.

HANCOCK & CHILD, - - Salem, N. J.

W. H. WRIGHT, Hudson, N. Y.

I have for twelve years been a breeder of choice, strong, healthy, pure white, low comb, bright orange leg White Plymouth Rocks exclusively. Farm raised Eggs for hatching \$1.25 per sitting; two sittings, \$2.

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OF EVERY KIND

should be in the hands of all poultry raisers. It is free.

We are the largest dealers in Poultry Supplies in the United States.

Fancy Poultry.
Thoroughbred Scotch Collie Dogs
Thoroughbred Pigs and Sheep.

Shall we send you our Seed Catalogue also?

JOHNSON & STOKES
SEEDSMEN.
217 & 219 MARKET ST.
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White, Buff and Brown

S. C. LEGHORNS. Thoroughbred Stock. Eggs \$1.00 per 13. O. J. WAID, Palmer, Mass.

EGGS FOR HATCHING. From hens that are bred to lay eggs as well as to take prizes in the show pen. B. P. Rocks, White Leghorns. Eggs \$1.00 per 15; \$5.00 per hundred. T. T. HIBBEN, McKeesport, Pa.

INCUBATORS.

Gold and Silver Medals.
Blue and Red Ribbons.
Diplomas and Sweepstakes.

Our 1898 catalogue tells you all about the world's greatest Incubators and Brooders. Send for one. All machines warranted.

PRAIRIE STATE INCUBATOR CO.,
HOMER CITY, PA.

WANTED

Every reader of this paper who is interested in poultry, to send his name to **W. H. SCHADT**, Goshen, Ind., for which he will have his name inserted in our Poultry Directory, which goes to nearly one hundred firms; consisting of poultry paper publishers, poultry supply houses, etc., etc. The only condition we do this on is that you mention A FEW HENS and enclose ten cents for the service we render you.

For the benefit of R. J. H., Atlantic, Mass., and others in the same trouble, Wm. H. Wellington, of the same state, writes: "Hens can be prevented from scratching the hay from their nests by cutting out a piece of poultry wire netting, larger than the nest box, and pressing it down over the hay."

"Give your hens proportionately the same care that you do your cows, and we have no doubt the actual figures will show a larger increase for the money and time invested in the poultry yard than in the dairy." That is from the *American Agriculturist*, and no better endorsement of the poultry industry could be given.

Here is a practical endorsement of an assertion made in the July issue of A FEW HENS: Judge G. O. Brown says, in the *Baltimore Sun*: "Some years ago the White Faced Black Spanish were nearly ruined by breeding the 'white face' to excess. It is unfortunate that a 'point' should be developed to such an extent as to produce almost a deformity."

Referring to the poultry shows of the winter, the *American Agriculturist* says: There was an increasing interest in the exhibit of dressed market poultry and eggs, which were tastefully arranged. We are glad to see poultry shows in other cities making more of this feature of market poultry. Poultry fanciers seem to be giving increased attention to practical rather than fancy birds.

The March issue of the *Reliable Poultry Journal* gives a description of the largest poultry plant in America, located in Sidney, Ohio. A FEW HENS was probably the first publication to refer to this enterprise. According to Mr. Curtis's report, the broilers are raised by the thousands. 3,000 laying hens are kept, and a loft of 30,000 pigeons. \$60,000 are invested, and an annual profit of \$25,000 is in sight. This plant will certainly prove the possibilities of the broiler business.

H. P. J. Earnshaw, Massachusetts, gives this pointer on preventing the waterpipe to tank on windmill from freezing: "Would suggest that a covering of tarred paper, or some other waterproof material, on the outside of the box on the waterpipe would insure it from freezing. When the water in the pipe is cooler than outside temperature, the moisture will be attracted to it, and as sawdust is an absorbent of moisture, would freeze quickly if you had a cold snap, as frost will follow moisture very quickly."

Rhode Island Reds

are unexcelled for beauty and utility. Hardy, great layers, and fine poultry. Eggs \$1.00 per 13; \$2.00 per 30. A. E. CUMMINGS, Hudson, N. H.

WHITE WYANDOTTES.

Business stock, with Standard points; bred principally for egg laying and meat qualities. A few nice cockerels at low price to dispose of them at once. Eggs from selected birds \$1.50 per 13; \$2.50 per 26; \$3.00 per 39. WM. F. STROUD, Merchantville, N. J.

Maple Farm Duck Yards.

The largest Pekin duck ranch in the Country. Twenty-five hundred mammoth breeding birds. We guarantee the fertility and safe delivery of our eggs. Send for catalogue to

JAMES RANKIN, South Easton, Mass.



Pioneer Clover Meal is pure clover hay, ground fine by a new process. We use nothing but pure clover, which is the greatest known egg maker. By the use of our meal, hens will lay all winter. It is not cut clover; there is no waste in its use. Send for free sample and book, giving the endorsements of all the leading poultry editors. Prices, 50 lbs. \$1.00; 100 lbs. \$2.00; 5 lbs. 25 cts., in sacks. Ask your dealer for it.

The Bennett & Millett Co., Gouverneur, N. Y.

People We Know.

Hancock & Child, Salem, N. J., are probably the only exclusive breeders of White Plymouth Rock fowls in New Jersey. They are practical birds and we can recommend them.

W. R. Curtiss & Co., Ransomville, N. J., again change their advertisement, guaranteeing eggs at 75 per cent fertility. The stock on this farm are bred for egg and meat production.

Fishers Island Farm, Fishers Island, N. Y., who begin an advertisement in this issue, are booking a large number of egg orders. Mr. Crangle, the poultry manager, writes that the outlook is good for a big spring trade. The firm is strictly reliable.

Any of our readers who are interested in Black Minorcas should send five cents in stamps to the *American Fancier*, Johnstown, N. Y., for a sample copy of the fine special edition of that paper, which is devoted exclusively to the interests of that valuable breed. The *American Fancier* has also issued a profusely illustrated special Pet Stock edition, which all lovers of pet stock should have, and which will be sent for five cents in stamps.

Poultry raising is becoming every year more of a fine art. The best poultry breeders today demand the pedigree of choice fowls the same as they do of horses and cows. This is something which has never heretofore been kept. Mr. A. J. Silberstein, of Framingham, Mass., has invented a nest box which shows which hen lays every egg, and he will sell the plans to build it to any fancier upon application. It has been in use for three years and works to perfection.

J. H. Davis, editor of the *Fanciers' Review*, writes Geo. H. Stahl, Quincy, Ills., as follows: "A trial with your Wooden Hen, managed by my children, resulted in a good hatch of most vigorous Andalusians. The chicks are now two weeks old; all doing well. Am especially pleased with the regulator, as it works to perfection. The Wooden Hen is all you claim for it, and is a valuable addition to the larger machines. It is the easiest machine to regulate I ever handled. It is not a child's toy, but a reliable hatcher of a small pattern. I am delighted with it."

75 per ct. Guaranteed

By NIAGARA FARM.

White Wyandottes, S. C. W. Leghorns, Light Brahmas, Mammoth Pekin Ducks. Eggs \$1.00 per 13; \$3.00 per 50; \$5.00 per 100.

White Indian Games, White Holland Turkeys, Mammoth Embden Geese. Eggs 25 cents each.

All stock bred for business. If you want money makers give us a trial. Cut Clover \$1.00 per 100 lbs. Reference—M. K. Boyer, editor of A Few Hens. W. R. CURTISS & CO., Ransomville, N. Y.

Circular free.

Largest Supply House in America



SEND FOR 1897 CATALOGUE—FREE. Reference—A FEW HENS.

MILES BROS.

Blue Barred P. Rocks.

Carefully bred for Standard Points and Large Egg Yield. Stock very healthy and vigorous; raised on unlimited range. Eggs from our finest matings: One setting \$1.50; two settings \$4.00. Incubator eggs from pure-bred B. P. Rocks \$4.00 per 100. We guarantee fertility.

MILES BROS., Spring Hill, (Bradford Co.,) Pa.

Whitney's Super-Carbonate of Lime. The old reliable insecticide and disinfectant Powder. Of special value for use in stable, dog kennels, and poultry houses. No vermin will live where used.

I have used this preparation in my henneries for the past two seasons and find that it fully equals the claims that you make for it. Its free use in the nest boxes obviates almost entirely any necessity for direct application to the fowls, while its use on the platforms completely neutralizes all unpleasant odors. R. H. COWLES, Wallingford, Conn.

Send for Circulars. E. WHITNEY & CO., Natick, Mass.

FISHERS ISLAND FARM. FISHERS ISLAND, N. Y. Headquarters for the Practical Business Fowls: Barred, Buff and White Plymouth Rocks, Cornish and White Indian Games, Pekin Ducks. Eggs for Hatching. Send for catalogue. J. F. CRANGLE, Poultry Manager.

Madison Square Winners.

We have for sale at a low price, Exhibition and Breeding Barred and Wh. Rocks, Rose and S. C. B. Legh's, Bl. Langshans, (Robinson) Wh. Wyandottes, (Dustin) Bl. Minorcas, S. C. W. Legh's, Lt. Brahmas, Belgian Hares. W. W. KULP, PORTSTOWN, PA.

OUR SPECIALTY—S. L. WYANDOTTES.

We bought cockerel and several pullets from noted S. L. Wyandotte specialist. Have made up yard of fine birds. Will sell eggs at low price of \$1.25 per 13. BONE, \$1.65 per 100 lbs.

JONAS CULLAR, East Lewiston, Ohio.

Tilton's Power Job Print,

NORTHWOOD RIDGE, N. H.

100 Envelopes, 100 Note Heads, 100 Tags, sent post-paid, for \$1.40. D. Brahma Eggs, \$1.00 per 13, including a year's sub. to poultry magazine.

Poultry Supplies

Of all kinds. Waste Bread, Cut Clover, Pure Beef Scraps, Fancy Ground Oyster Shells. All kinds of Grit, and Agents for Smith & Romaine's B. B. B. Estimates given on special lots of feed.

FRED. G. ORR & CO.,

Nos. 5 and 6 Commercial Wharf, Boston, Mass.

Barred and White P. Rocks, R. C. Brown Leghorns.

Eggs \$1 per 15. Hawkins and Hacker strains. They are prize winners and will produce prize winners. LEHMAN BROS., Elizabethville, Pa.

WHITE WYANDOTTES.

PRACTICAL STRAIN.

Good size, yellow skin, and prolific layers of large, brown eggs. A few Pullets for sale.

— Eggs \$2.00 per 15; \$3.00 per 30. — H. M. STOWELL, (Box E,) Walpole, Mass.

FOR SALE. Eggs from high scoring and Barred Plymouth Rocks; also S. C. Brown Leghorns. All scoring from 90 to 94 points. Settings Cornish Indian Games, \$2.00 per 13; Barred Plymouth Rocks, \$1.50 per 13; S. C. Brown Leghorns, \$1.00 per 13. Three high scoring Ind. Game c'h's. for sale. Address all orders to CHAS. O. BARNES, 223 Normal Street, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

190 Was Average Egg Yield last year of my S. C. Black Minorcas, selected for business and beauty from the Garrison and Wood strains. Eggs and Stock. GEO. W. CONABLE, Cortland, N. Y.

Bred for Heavy Laying.

Single Comb White Leghorns—Eggs, \$1.25 per 15.

Pekin Ducks—Eggs, \$1.25 per 11.

Only limited number of sittings will be sold. They are strictly business fowls. Orders booked now. M. K. BOYER, Hammonton, N. J.

All for One Dollar!

Profitable Poultry Farming, retail,	-	25	Cents.
A Living From Poultry,	-	25	"
Broilers for Profit,	-	50	"
Farm-Poultry Doctor,	-	50	"
A Few Hens, monthly, one year,	-	25	"
Total,		\$1.75.	

By ordering at once will send the above collection for \$1.00. Address,

MICHAEL K. BOYER, Box A, HAMMONTON, (Atlantic Co.,) New Jersey.